

## MEDICAL LITERATURE.

**Biographic Clinics**, by Dr. Geo. M. Gould, is just from the press of P. Blakiston's Son & Co., Philadelphia. It is certainly a most unique and original volume, charmingly written and intensely interesting; as indeed is everything from the pen of Dr. Gould. To disinter from the buried records of great men, dead and gone, a fairly accurate clinical picture, and after the lapse of years to upset incorrect diagnoses and establish correct ones from the fragmentary biographies at hand, would seem, to any one less daring than Dr. Gould, an absurdly impossible task. Yet this is precisely the work undertaken in *Biographic Clinics*; and that it has been well done there can be no question. There seems little doubt, after going over the case presented by Dr. Gould, that the lives of De Quincey, Carlyle, Darwin, Huxley, and Browning were in a great measure made miserable by uncorrected astigmatism and unrelieved eye strain. Undoubtedly there will be many who will smile the sarcastic smile, and comment on the work as being the biased utterance of a fanatical specialist who lays everything at the door of his specialty. Yet there will be others, and their number will grow as the book becomes more widely read, who will take to heart the lesson that it brings to them. That eye strain, like any other persistent nerve drain, may produce and does produce profound disturbance of the general health, and has a very marked influence over the mental as well as the physical condition of some people, no oculist will deny, and to which many of us can testify in ourselves. It is not urged, as they of the "sarcastic smile" class seem to think, that every one who has a bellyache is a proper subject for astigmatic lenses; but it is urged that the ill-defined ailments of many people may be due to apparently remote causes, and that eyestrain, as one of these possible causes, should be determined or eliminated in every such person.

This little book will have more than served its purpose, however, when the great truth and force of one idea it presents shall have been realized: "The patient before us is a history and a prophecy;" the ailment for the relief of which he comes to-day is only a very small part of the problem he should present to the conscientious physician. He is a history—of other ailments, mental and physical, all more or less bearing on the present condition; he is a prophecy, in that his potentialities should be studied and not alone so far as a prognosis of the immediate ailment is concerned.

Whether or not Dr. Gould has here demonstrated his point as to eyestrain being the principal cause of the lifelong ill health of those he has studied in this volume, is a matter of opinion—of the individual opinion of each reader—and not a question of fact. But that he has presented a wonderfully strong "brief," and in a forceful, attractive and intensely interesting manner, is a fact. Personally, I think he has proven his claim; but, of course, there may be others who will not think so. P. M. J.

The Association of Medical Librarians and the editors of *Medical Library and Historical Journal* are to be congratulated on the character of the journal which they have just established. In its general appearance as well as in the matter which it contains, it is a good piece of work well done. The lists of medical publications and exchanges will be found to be of very great value to every medical librarian in the country, and to many individuals who have fairly good private libraries of their own. It is to be published quarterly from 1313 Bedford avenue, Brooklyn, N. Y.

**Lessons and Laboratory Exercises in Bacteriology: An Outline of Technical Methods Introduced to the Systematic Study and Identification of Bacteria.** By Allen J. Smith, M. D., Professor of Pathology, University of Texas: Philadelphia, P. Blakiston's Son & Co., 1902.

This book is designated as a laboratory outline for class work or individual study in Bacteriology; being a series of exercises carried out at the University of Texas, so arranged and systemized as to be adaptable as a laboratory manual. The work, as outlined, may be carried out in eight or nine weeks, of ten hours a week. The subject matter is in the form of lessons, considerable space given to explanatory matter and illustration. Blank pages alternate throughout the book upon which can be recorded the results of the day's exercises. The author does not claim originality in matter or presentation, but has aimed at "a fixation of systematic procedures in class work." In this respect the book fulfills its purpose. The amount of work given is sufficient to give the student a good basis for further investigation. The lessons are well arranged; each step is made clear; it is concise without being curtailed; it is practical, it is modern.

H. P. H.

**A Guide to the Practical Examination of Urine for the Use of Physicians and Students.** By James Tyson, M. D., Professor of Medicine in the University of Pennsylvania. Tenth Edition, Revised and Corrected, With a Colored Plate and Wood Engravings. P. Blakiston's Son & Co., Philadelphia, 1902. [Price, \$1.50 net.]

This is a revision, with additions, of a familiar book. The subject matter has been brought up to date. The arrangement is commendable. Each subject is taken up, first with a short general consideration; the different tests or means of estimation are then given, and, finally, the clinical significance discussed; sources of error and avoidance of same are pointed out. Lately there have been a multitude of tests brought forward, or modifications of standard tests, each claiming some advantage along the lines of accuracy or simplicity. The most important are given here, discussed, and their comparative advantages or disadvantages noted. The fact that this is the tenth edition argues for its worth. It is a handy laboratory book for either the student or practitioner, and has to recommend it—clearness, conciseness, modernness and practical usefulness. H. P. H.

**A Compend of Human Physiology Especially Adapted for the Use of Medical Students.** By Albert P. Brubaker, A. M., M. D., Adjunct Professor of Physiology and Hygiene in the Jefferson Medical College. Eleventh edition, revised and enlarged, with illustrations and a table of Physiologic Constants. P. Blakiston's Son & Co., Philadelphia, 1902.

The compend follows the usual arrangement of physiologic subjects, containing chapters, brief and compact, from the physiology of the cell to reproduction. It is designed as an assistance to the student during attendance on lectures. It is not a laboratory guide—it certainly is not a reference book. The usefulness of quiz-compend in physiology to-day finds a very limited sphere. As an example of such a book it is creditable, and the subject matter is recent.

H. P. H.

The Physician's Visiting List for 1903-4, issued by P. Blakiston Son & Co., Philadelphia, marks the fifty-second edition of this complete and compact little publication. A visiting list, to be carried in the